GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4847
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
BAN OF KDM JEWELLERY
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether `KDM` quality jewellery has been banned in various countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the jewelers still selling KDM mark jewellery?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. As per Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative body of the trade, manufacturing of `KDM` quality jewellery has been banned in several countries, where jewellery manufacturing is done predominantly by mechanised process. However, import of such Cadmium jewellery is not banned in thesecountries in view of its popularity. As per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), `KDM` marking on jewellery is associated with the use of Cadmium bearing solder in the manufacture of jewellery, which is toxic in nature. Use of Cadmium in jewellery manufacture has been dispensed with in accordance with IS 3095:1999 Standard of BIS. However, as per GJEPC, Cadmium is used in the soldering process in India predominantly in the manufacture of hand-made jewellery. Use of alternative alloys, such as Zinc based alloy, have been tried in the past, but have not been successful. Selling of non-hallmarked `KDM` mark jewellery does not come under the purview of BIS.